REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-16 and 18-30 are pending, Claims 15, 18-19, and 22 having been amended and Claim 17 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 15-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 15 and 16 were rejected as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, rendered obvious over Perez (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,791); Claims 17 and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over Perez in view of Edelman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,281,601); dependent Claims 19-27 were rejected as being unpatentable over Perez and further in view of Takriti (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,402); and Claims 28-30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Perez in view of Pitchford (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,541).

In reply, Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the "virtual energy storage mechanism" is carried out through the method steps, including the keeping of an account balance of an amount of energy to be later produced by the another power production facility on behalf of the renewable power production facility. Moreover, Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the renewable power production facility produces a variable amount of power, and the another power production facility produces a controllable amount of power. Collectively both facilities apply their respective powers to transmission lines. A power output from the another power production facility is adjusted to by a predetermined quantity, which is a quantity by which the variable amount of power from the renewable power production facility deviates from a threshold. By informing the another power production facility about the predetermined quantity, the another power production facility can control its power output to account for this predetermined quantity.

It is believed that Claim 15 has been amended to be consistent with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language may be identified.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended Claim 15 based on Perez. The basis of the rejection is that the "another power production facility" is the "power grid" (Office Action, page 5). Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that both the renewable power production facility and the another power production facility apply electric power to transmission lines. This is meant to distinguish the power grid from a power production facility. Furthermore, it is noted that transmission lines convey power, but do not "produce power". Therefore, according to amended Claim 15, the power grid cannot correspond to "another power production facility".

Furthermore, Claim 15 has also been amended to clarify that an account balance is kept of an amount of energy to be later produced by the another power production facility (which has a controllable amount of electric power) on behalf of the renewable power production facility. The "determining", "informing", "adjusting" and "keeping" steps not only (1) allow for the short-term compensation of shortfalls (or excesses) of the renewable production facility by adjusting the power output from the another power facility, but also (2) keep track of such shortfalls (or excesses) so the renewable power production facility can later "pay back" (or receive) the power produced on its behalf by another power production facility.

In contrast, Perez neither teaches nor suggests this feature, as (1) Claim 15 has been amended such that the power grid cannot serve as the "another power production facility", (2) no power production facility is "informed" of the predetermined quantity nor is there another power production facility that adjusts its power output by an amount that corresponds with the predetermined quantity, and (3) there is no keeping of an account balance. In contrast,

Perez works on a completely different basis, by counteracting the power output variations in a renewable power plant by "controlling the load energy" (column 5, lines 13-17). Perez does not use another power production facility, nor does it teach or suggest the informing of another power production facility of a predetermined quantity of electric power produced by the renewable power production facility so as to provide an adjustment of power output from the another power production facility to compensate for the predetermined quantity. Likewise Perez does not keep an account balance. Rather, Perez teaches away from Claim 15 by allowing for a variation in power production to be compensated by a dynamically controlled load. Claim 15 requires the "renewable" and "another" power production facilities to collectively provide a predetermined amount of power. Thus, while Perez purposefully allows for a variation in power output from a single power production source, Claim 15 requires two power production sources cooperate to provide a predetermined amount of power. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Perez neither anticipates nor renders obvious the invention of amended Claim 15.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Edelman discloses element 50, namely an energy storage (power source) that can be used to supply, store or use power in an efficient energy management matter. However, the assertion of Edelman is misplaced with regard to the presently claimed invention. Edelman expressly requires the use of an actual storage mechanism (element 50) and not a virtual energy storage mechanism, which is the result of the keeping of an account balance, as claimed. Moreover, the basic idea in Edelman is to store already produced electrical power, while Claim 15 keeps an account balance so the correct amount of power to be later produced. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Perez in view of Edelman does not teach or suggest all of the features of Claim 15, as amended, and therefore does not render obvious the invention of Claim 15. It is

respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 16 and 18 also patentably define over Perez in view of Edelman for at least the same reasons.

Takriti is asserted for its disclosure of various more-detailed features contained in dependent Claims 19-27. Assuming *arguendo* that this is the case, it is respectfully submitted that Takriti does not cure the deficiencies of Perez, and therefore no matter how Takriti is combined with Perez the combination does not teach or suggest all of the features of amended Claim 15.

Likewise, Claims 28-30 are rejected based on Pitchford for performing "adjusting" by electronic and non-electronic communications. Even if true, Pitchford does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with regard to Perez and amended Claim 15.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-16 and 18-30, as amended, is definite and patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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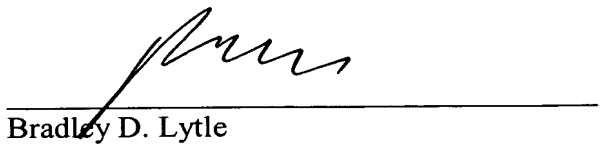

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